

sectioned and stained some of the *Dicrocheles* embryos, read the manuscript, and gave me invaluable guidance in the cytological aspects of the work.

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Peale's *Lepidoptera Americana* (1833)

CYRIL F. DOS PASSOS

Abstract This paper locates Peale's copy of *Lepidoptera Americana* (1833) in the Library of the Amer. Mus. of Nat. Hist. and not in the British Mus. (Nat. Hist.) as claimed by Brower. The locations of eight other copies are given and Peale's copy collated in detail. Bibliographic references deal with publications and activities of Peale.

In a recent number of the *Lepidopterist's News* ("1958" [1959], pp. 101-102) Dr. Lincoln Brower published some interesting notes on Peale's *Lepidoptera Americana* with special reference to the authorship and correct name of *Papilio multicaudatus* Kirby, 1894. Unfortunately, this paper is in error concerning Peale's work and the location of the original copy.

Lepidoptera Americana, started by Titian Ramsey Peale in 1833 and apparently abandoned about 1836, is a mystery to lepidopterists. It is the first book begun by an American author on American lepidoptera that was published in this country. Peale was curator of the Philadelphia Museum and later became curator of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia where his collection remains. Titian's father was Charles Willson Peale, who founded Peale's Museum, a private enterprise, also known as the Philadelphia Museum. A commemorative stamp in his honor, issued on January 15, 1955 by the U. S. Post Office Department, depicts the elder Peale holding a curtain open beyond which may be seen a picture gallery.

LEPIDOPTERA AMERICANA:

OR,

ORIGINAL FIGURES OF THE MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES

OF

North America :

IN THEIR VARIOUS STAGES OF EXISTENCE,

AND THE PLANTS ON WHICH THEY FEED.

DRAWN ON STONE, AND COLOURED FROM NATURE :

WITH

THEIR CHARACTERS, SYNONYMS, AND REMARKS ON

THEIR HABITS AND MANNERS.

By TITIAN R. PEALE.

CURATOR OF THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM.

VOL. I.-NO. 1.

Philadelphia :

PRINTED BY WILLIAM P. GIBBONS,

S.W. CORNER SIXTH & CHERRY STS.

1833.

PROPOSALS

For Publishing by subscription, a work to be entitled

LEPIDOPTERA AMERICANA.

or

ORIGINAL FIGURES OF THE BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

of

NORTH AMERICA.

IN THE VARIOUS STAGES OF THEIR EXISTENCE, AND THE
PLANTS ON WHICH THEY FEED.

BY

TITIAN R. PEALE.



UNTIL within a few years, the Natural History of our country has been more indebted to the science and enterprize of foreigners, than to the exertions of her own citizens. But a great change has taken place, and a laudable spirit of encouragement has latterly been evinced toward all attempts tending to advance a knowledge of our native productions.

The splendid works which have been issued from the American press, in several departments of Natural History, have done more to diffuse a general taste for this science, among our fellow citizens, than could have been anticipated, even by the most sanguine.

The correctness of their illustrations, and the faithfulness of their descriptions, have not only been calculated for the scientific, but also open a rich mine of rational enjoyment to all classes of society.

An ardent desire of contributing to a more general and correct knowledge of the Insects of our country, has given rise to the present undertaking, and renders an apology for it unnecessary. It remains with the public to judge of its merits, and to decide whether it is deserving of patronage. We hope to render our work generally useful, by pointing out the most effectual means of guarding against the ravages of the different kinds of Caterpillars, so destructive to the labours of the farmer and horticulturist.

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Fig. 2

Brower (*loc. cit.*) states that a copy of **Lepidoptera Americana** now in the British Museum, which Kirby [1884, p. 103] noted, was Peale's own copy. But there is nothing that proves or even intimates that the copy referred to was Peale's personal copy. This copy was given to Osten-Sacken, then to Zeller, and may have reached the British Museum when Zeller's library was purchased. Brower, by consulting the literature (Lucas, 1917, pp. 211-212), could have learned that Peale's own copy had been in the library of the

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Fig. 3

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Coleman Sellers	1	do 10 N 6 th Street.
Edward Coleman	1	do Arch Street.
Isaac Lea	1	do Chestnut & 4 th
J. Vaughan	1	do Hall of A. S.
Mr. D. Gibbons	1	do 6th & Cherry St.

Fig. 4

American Museum of Natural History for many years. With Peale's copy is the original list of some 39 subscribers to the work (Figs. 1-4). An additional copy of **Lepidoptera Americana** is also in the American Museum Library and contains some unpublished plates, both originals and photostats.

An important document omitted from references in Brower's paper is a letter dated Oct. 1, 1884 from Peale (1884) to Eugene M. Aaron, Editor of **Papilio**, p. 150. This letter establishes the publication of **Lepidoptera Americana**, volume I, number 1, in 1833 in the following words ". . . doubted plates were printed and colored, were distributed among scientific friends, some colored and others uncolored were deposited in Scientific Libraries. I gave a set to Mr. Doubleday of the British Museum personally on his visit to this country about the year 1836—probably this is the same now noticed, the descriptions are still in MS." "Now noticed" refers to Kirby's paper in the same volume of **Papilio** (1884, p. 103). As early as 1860 (Morris, 1860, p. vi) publication of **Lepidoptera Americana** in 1833 had been established. Whether the copy of **Lepidoptera Americana** now in the library of the British Museum (Natural History) is the Osten-Sacken, or which seems more likely the Doubleday copy, is immaterial since neither was Peale's own copy. There is a presumption that an author does not give away his own copy of his work.

Insofar as possible at this late date, some of the 39 copies of volume I, number 1 of **Lepidoptera Americana** that Peale presumably delivered to his subscribers in 1833 are at present in the libraries of the following institutions:

Subscribers Names	No. of cop ^s	Residence.
Wm. G. Gibbons	1	6 th Cherry Street
C. Y. Childs	1	5 th Walnut Street
Jos. W. Henslow	1	Washington D.C.
Thos. P. Jones	1	Washington D.C.
A. Chapman	1	Cherry St. Phila.
Wm. J. Swales	one copy	^{combined} S. W. Corner 10th & Walnut Phila.

Fig. 5

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia	1
American Museum of Natural History	2
British Museum of Natural History	
(either the Doubleday or Osten-Sacken copy)	1
Oxford University (Hope Entomological Library)	1
University of Michigan	1
University of Minnesota (2 copies combined)	2

This accounts for only 8 copies and leaves some 30 or more unaccounted for. Doubtless a few have been lost or destroyed, others may be in private hands, and some even in secondhand bookstores. It would be interesting to learn the present location of these copies. As a matter of historical interest Figs. 3 and 4 are reproductions of Peale's list of subscribers.

During the long and active career of the late John D. Sherman, Jr., as a dealer in scientific publications, he offered only two copies of Peale's work in his series of catalogues (1933, p. 10; 1942, p. 32). The first copy was complete but it is not stated whether the plates were colored or not. Moreover, it contained an additional unpublished plate "no. 8." No wrapper is mentioned. The second copy had a wrapper, a sheet of proposals, and all 11 plates present in the Peale copy: three colored, three plain, five photostats. Photostats of five additional plates owned by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia were included. Sherman advised the author (*in litt.*) on July 13, 1957 that these two copies had been combined by him and sold to the University of Minnesota Library in Minneapolis.

Peale's first number contained 14 pages of letter press and plates nos. 3, 4, 6, and 7. What he contemplated using eventually as plates 1 and 2 is unknown. It is possible that a plate figuring a setting board with a specimen of *Papilio turnus* pinned thereon, a beetle, and two collecting nets, one the old-fashioned scissor type, would have been used as one of these plates.

In spite of Brower's statement, "The male *P. eurymedon* and female *P. multicaudatus* on which he [Peale] based his drawings are apparently no longer in existence, . . ." the fact is that Peale's collection of Lepidoptera is still in the original boxes in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. It was shown to the author many years ago by the late James A. G. Rehn, Curator of Insects at the Academy. Among the specimens in these boxes are Peale's manuscript types of *Papilio multicaudata* and *P. lewisii*, names which are now credited to Kirby, 1884, since he was the first to publish them. The latter name is deemed a synonym of *P. eurymedon* Lucas, 1852. Among the unpublished plates by Peale in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia is a colored one of *Papilio lewisii* and *Papilio multicaudata*, both upper and undersides. This plate is signed "T. R. Peale" and bears the date "1836," which leads me to believe that **Lepidoptera Americana** was abandoned by Peale at or about that time. This plate is probably one to which Peale referred when he wrote that some of ". . . the descriptions are still in *MS.*"

Peale's copy of **Lepidoptera Americana** is in the American Museum library and is bound in buckrum. Inside the front board sheet appears the following handwritten note by an unknown author:

"Peale's original copy
sheets bound between yellow covers
Received and retained as originally
sewed in threads by Peale"

The collation of Peale's copy of **Lepidoptera Americana** appeared on the front of yellow paper wrapper and is reproduced as Fig. 1. The inside of front yellow paper is blank. Proposals for publishing by subscription are reproduced as Fig. 2. This is followed by the signature of the subscribers partly on the second page of the proposals and on two additional half pages herein reproduced as Figs. 3 and 4. This is followed by a small ruled piece of white paper which must be irrelevant because it is clearly dated "1874" but reads:

"Lepidoptera Americana
Apr. 1 - 1874 Estimates
Duval & Hunter Lithographers
Filbert between 7 & 8th Sts.
"Sheet of 4 plates each for printing
By steam \$60 pr 1000 sheets
By hand pr 1000 "
coloring 4 cents per plate = 150\$ p.m."

SATURNIA PROMETHEA, female, pl. 3, 1 colored, 2 uncolored, 1 without any title and numbered in pencil.

PROMETHEUS MOTH, *SATURNIA PROMETHEA*, text 4 pp. signature A.

SATURNIA PROMETHEA, male, pl. 4, 1 colored, 1 uncolored.

PROMETHEUS MOTH, *SATURNIA PROMETHEA*, text 2 pp. signature A2.

LASIOCAMPA IO, pl. 6, colored.

IO MOTH, *LASIOCAMPA IO*, text 4 pp. signature A3 on third page.

DANAUS PLEXIPPUS, male, female, larva, and chrysalis, pl. 7, colored and uncolored.

PLEXIPPUS BUTTERFLY, *DANAUS PLEXIPPUS*, text 4 pp. signature A4 on third page, followed by a page blank on both sides.

Inside of back page of yellow paper wrapper is blank. Back of yellow paper wrapper contains proposals for publishing by subscription, etc. Presently bound in with this copy are:

- a. an unnumbered uncolored plate with four figures: a scissor-type collecting net, a standard type collecting net, a beetle, and a specimen of *Papilio turnus* L. pinned on a small spreading block,
- b. an uncolored plate no. 5 in pencil, figuring two specimens of *Saturnia regalis*, a larva and chrysalis,
- c. a colored and uncolored plate no. 8 entitled *Xanthidia lisa* figuring two adults, larva, and chrysalis,
- d. a partly colored plate no. 9 entitled *Geometra domestica* figuring two adults, larva, and chrysalis, and
- e. two unnumbered uncolored plates similar except one entitled *Morpho iris* the other *Pavonia iris* with a pencil note on the latter (probably corrected to *Morpho iris*).

Carpenter (1945, p. 78; 1953, p. 320) lists the biographies of Titian R. Peale. Both father and son have been the subjects of numerous biographies and articles on particular phases of the later's long and interesting life, he lived to be 86. Among them is a recent book entitled "Titian Ramsey Peale 1799-1885 and his journals of the Wilkes expedition" by Jessie J. Poesch (1961) and "Mr. [C.W.] Peale's 'Farm Persevere' some documentary views" by the same authoress (1956). An early obituary of T. R. Peale by Calvert (1913, p. 1) furnishes an interesting portrait of that individual.

Acknowledgments I am indebted to the following librarians for answering my questions and in some cases supplying information concerning the copies of **Lepidoptera Americana** in their respective libraries. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to each of the following: Dr. Venia I. Phillips, Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil.; Miss Veronica J. Sexton, Cal. Acad. Sci.; Mrs. Thomas J. Tauber, Carnegie Mus.; Miss Eugenia Bernoff, Chic. Nat. Hist. Mus.; Miss Therese Bourassa, Laval Univ.; Mrs. Lloyd M. Martin, Los Angeles Co. Mus.; Mr. Rupert C. Woodward, Louisiana State Univ.; Mrs. Marguerite Densky, Montreal Univ.; Miss Jessie Bell MacKenzie, Mus. Comp. Zool.; Mr. Frederick L. Arnold, Princeton Univ.; Mr. H. Gilbert Kelley, Rutgers Univ. Lib.; Miss Ruth Blanchard, Smithsonian Inst.; Miss Janice S. Brown, Smithsonian Inst.; Mr. George H. Goodwin, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; Mr. Robert H. Land, Lib. Cong.; Miss Louise O. Bercaw and Mr. Oliver M. Shipley, U. S. Dept. Agric. Lib.; and Mr. P. N. Thomas, Zool. Mus., Tring.

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